

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 862

By Matlock

A RESOLUTION commending Kenneth Hines of Loudon County for his meritorious service during World War II as a member of the 7th Armored Division of the United States Army.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth Hines, a member of this Nation's Greatest Generation, served during World War II as a proud member of the United States Army's 7th Armored Division and deserves proper recognition; and

WHEREAS, as a private in the 7th Armored Division, this brave soldier landed on Omaha Beach in Normandy, France, two weeks after the initial D-Day invasion on June 6, 1944; he went on to participate in several campaigns, among them Ardennes, Rhineland, Central Europe, and the Battle of the Bulge; and

WHEREAS, sixty-one years after his wartime service, Mr. Hines, accompanied by his daughter, Lonnita Biggs, traveled back to the beaches and battlefields of France as part of a custom tour planned and hosted by University of Tennessee language professor, Dr. John Romeiser; and

WHEREAS, the tour included many emotional moments, including visits to Utah Beach and Omaha Beach, where so many valiant young men were killed in the defense of freedom and liberty; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hines was invited to sign the wall of a café near the Utah Beach museum, affixing his name, unit, and date of landing alongside the signatures of hundreds of

heroic veterans who also made the same pilgrimage back to this most sacred and historic site;
and

WHEREAS, the tour also included other World War I and World War II battlefields, including Chateau-Thierry, Argonne Forest, Verdun, Pegasus Bridge, Reims, and the red-brick school house where German General Alfred Jodl signed the surrender documents on May 7, 1945; and

WHEREAS, the most sobering and poignant part of the experience for the members of the tour was walking through cemetery after cemetery at different battlefields and seeing the marble headstones marking the graves of thousands of brave men who died in service to their countries; and

WHEREAS, as a dedicated and stalwart young soldier in the 7th Armored Division, Kenneth Hines performed his duties with the utmost skill, dedication, and professionalism; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that we should honor Kenneth Hines, as he has made untold and innumerable sacrifices to preserve the liberties we enjoy today and that our progeny will hopefully continue to cherish for generations to come; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we commend Kenneth Hines for his military service during World War II, applaud his dedication and bravery, and extend our best wishes for his continued success and happiness in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.